

September 19, 2003

Public Notice for 401 Certification

Two Log Instream Enhancement Project Sonoma County

On September 10, 2003 the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Steven Levesque, on behalf of Hawthorne Timber Company, LLC and Campbell Timberland Management, LLC (Campbell), requesting approval for disturbances to waters of the State and other water quality impacts associated with the development of the proposed project.

The proposed Project is located on lands owned by Hawthorne Timber Company, LLC, in Mendocino County, east of Fort Bragg, along Two Log Creek (tributary to Big River). The Project reach begins at the confluence of Big River and extends 14,500 feet up Two Log Creek. The purpose of the Project is to enhance instream salmonid habitat within Two Log Creek. In July of 2000, a Campbell contractor conducted blasting operations at a rock quarry near Two Log Creek accidentally blew quarry materials into 70 feet of the Creek. Although that portion was restored, this Project is also part of a settlement agreement between Campbell and the Regional Water Board.

The proposed Project consists of placing large wood structures (redwood and fir logs, as well as root wads) into Two Log Creek. The Project includes 24 locations where woody debris will be put in place, with the option to include 6 additional sites if funding allows. Large wood will be placed into Two Log Creek and anchored using root wads, boulders, and other natural means. Some of the logs may be "keyed in" to the bank by using an excavator to dig a trench into the bank (and then backfill). Each location will have the same basic instream structure design (based on recommendations contained in the California Stream Habitat Restoration Manual), but the specific configuration of each wood structure will vary depending on location-specific conditions.

Site access is an issue for the Project. A helicopter may be used to deliver and/or place logs into Two Log Creek. In addition, conventional cable yarding systems may be used in all reaches to suspend and place logs in or near the stream channel; hand labor and tools will be used to make the final adjustments. An excavator or heel-boom loader may also be used to adjust logs, anchor logs into streambanks, and to place the anchoring structures. Equipment will stage on the existing haul road but may need to traverse into riparian areas for short distances. Equipment will not enter the stream. The Applicant has requested to option to remove up to 5 trees per 100 meter reach of stream, but only if necessary to allow for access to the site. No trees over 12 inches diameter at breast height will be felled without consulting with CDFG. Any felled trees will be used in structure construction, erosion control, or will be left on the site.

The Project was scheduled to begin during the summer of 2003 and end by October 15. However, various delays have set the Project back, and it is possible that the Project will not take place until the summer of 2004.

The California Department of Fish and Game has issued a Streambed Alteration Agreement for the Project. The United States Army Corps of Engineers will require a permit for the Project (in consultation with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Fisheries); the Regional Water Board is not aware of the status at this time.

The Regional Water Board is in the process of reviewing the 401 Certification application for the proposed Project. The Regional Water Board will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Lauren Hocker by e-mail at hockl@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov, or send comments to NCRWQCB, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.